

**DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**FLANGE FOR CONNECTING FAN TO MANWAY**

the specification of which is attached hereto, and I have not abandoned the invention.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, and I have disclosed the best mode of carrying out the invention in said specification.

I do not know and do not believe that the subject matter of the present invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or more than one year prior to the present application, or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the present application; and said invention has not been patented or caused to be patented, or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by applicant or his legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application in the United States.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which states as follows:

"(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the office all information known to that

individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) it establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
- (2) it refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
  - (i) opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
  - (ii) asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) each inventor named in the application;
- (2) each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application,

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor."

I hereby appoint David L. Ray, Attorney at Law, Registration No. 25,367, with offices at 2051 Silverside Drive, Suite 205, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, as my attorney in the above entitled application, with full power of substitution, association and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business with the Patent Office connected herewith.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

---

Full name of joint inventor: MALCOM R. MELANCON

Inventor's signature: Malcolm R Melancon

Date: 11/23/01

Residence: 13776 Bayou Terrace, St. Amant, LA 70774

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Post Office Address: 13776 Bayou Terrace, St. Amant, LA 70774

\*\*\*\*\*

Full name of joint inventor: SEDGIE F. MELANCON

Inventor's signature: Sedgie F. Melancon

Date: 11/23/01

Residence: 13803 Bayou Terrace, St. Amant, LA 70774

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Post Office Address: 13803 Bayou Terrace, St. Amant, LA 70774

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/01 (10-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002, OMB 0651-0032  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)</b>		<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	RA-1658
		<b>First Named Inventor</b>	MALCOM R. MELANCON
<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>			
		<b>Application Number</b>	/
		<b>Filing Date</b>	
		<b>Group Art Unit</b>	
		<b>Examiner Name</b>	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**FLANGE FOR CONNECTING FAN TO MANWAY**

*(Title of the Invention)*

the specification of which

is attached hereto

OR

was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

as United States Application Number or PCT International

(if applicable).

Application Number  and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

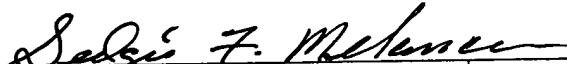
[Page 1 of 2]

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## DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

Direct all correspondence to:		<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label	<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence address below
<p>Name <b>David L. Ray, Attorney for Applicants</b></p> <p>Address <b>2051 Silverside Drive</b></p> <p>Address <b>Suite 205</b></p> <p>City <b>Baton Rouge,</b> State <b>LA</b> ZIP <b>70808</b></p> <p>Country <b>USA</b> Telephone <b>225/766-2626</b> Fax <b>225/766-8862</b></p>				
<p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</p>				
NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR :		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor		
Given Name (first and middle [if any]) <b>MALCOM R.</b>		Family Name or Surname <b>MELANCON</b>		
Inventor's Signature			Date <b>11/23/01</b>	
Residence: City <b>St. Amant,</b>	State <b>LA</b>	Country <b>USA</b>	Citizenship <b>USA</b>	
Mailing Address <b>13776 Bayou Terrace</b>				
Mailing Address				
City <b>St. Amant,</b>	State <b>LA</b>	ZIP <b>70774</b>	Country <b>USA</b>	
NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor		
Given Name (first and middle [if any]) <b>SEDGIE F.</b>		Family Name or Surname <b>MELANCON</b>		
Inventor's Signature			Date <b>11/23/01</b>	
Residence: City <b>St. Amant,</b>	State <b>LA</b>	Country <b>USA</b>	Citizenship <b>USA</b>	
Mailing Address <b>13803 Bayou Terrace</b>				
Mailing Address				
City <b>St. Amant,</b>	State <b>LA</b>	ZIP <b>70774</b>	Country <b>USA</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.				

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PTO/SB/81 (02-01)

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## POWER OF ATTORNEY OR AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	MALCOM R. MELANCON
Title	FLANGE FOR CONNECTING FAN TO MANWAY
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	RA-1658

I hereby appoint:

Practitioners at Customer Number

OR

Practitioner(s) named below:

Name	Registration Number
DAVID L. RAY	25,367
2051 Silverside Drive	
Suite 205	
Baton Rouge, LA 70808	

as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please change the correspondence address for the above-identified application to:

The above-mentioned Customer Number.

OR

Practitioners at Customer Number

OR

Firm or Individual Name

Address

Address

City  State  Zip

Country

Telephone  Fax

I am the:

Applicant/Inventor.

Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.  
*Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).*

### SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name  MALCOM R. MELANCON

Signature   
*Malcolm R. Melancon*

Date  11/27/01

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

Total of 2 forms are submitted.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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## POWER OF ATTORNEY OR AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	MALCOM R. MELANCON
Title	FLANGE FOR CONNECTING FAN TO MANWAY
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	RA-1658

I hereby appoint:

Practitioners at Customer Number

OR

Practitioner(s) named below:

Name	Registration Number
DAVID L. RAY	25,367
2051 Silverside Drive	
Suite 205	
Baton Rouge, LA 70808	

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as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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Individual Name

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Address

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State

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I am the:

Applicant/Inventor.

Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.  
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).

### SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name  SEDGIE F. MELANCON

Signature   
 *Sedgie F. Melancon*

Date  11/23/01

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below\*.

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